

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 02707 291754Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 /054 W
-----301355Z 057300 /53

R 291433Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 468
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE YO SHUM
SUBJ: ROUND-TABLES ON CSCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: BELGRADE 1924 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS ORGANIZED TWO-DAY (APR 25-26) CONFERENCE FOR JOURNALISTS FROM CSCE SIGNATORY STATES TO DISCUSS ROLE OF PRESS, RADIO AND TV IN IMPLEMENTING FINAL ACT. MEETING NOTABLE ONLY AS A POSSIBLE PREVIEW OF POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN BY SOME EASTERN GOVTS IN APPROACHING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION QUESTIONS IN FALL BELGRADE REVIEW MEETING. EVEN LESS NOTABLE WAS ALL-YUGOSLAV SEMINAR HELD APR 21-22 IN NOVI SAD ON THEME "HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN FREEDOM" ORGANIZED TO "INFORM INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC" ON YUGOSLAVIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. SEMINAR WHICH ORGANIZERS DENIED WAS RELATED TO BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE TURNED INTO PAEN OF SELF-PRAISE. END SUMMARY.

2. CSCE CONFERENCE WAS OPENED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL CONCL OF JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF YUGOSLAVIA, MITJA GORJUP, (EDITOR OF DELO NEWSPAPER IN LJUBLJANA) WHO
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GAVE A 35-PAGE INTRODUCTORY SPEECH. GORJUP'S RAMBLING REMARKS MEMORABLE ONLY FOR HIS DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AS "A POLEMIC AIMED AT CONVINCING EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION THAT THE MAIN DANGER TO HUMAN FREEDOMS AS A WHOLE LIES ABOVE ALL IN SOCIALISM, THAT IS, IN COMMUNISM AS A SYSTEM". GORJUP ALSO ECHOED YUGOSLAV FORMULATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN HE SAID "IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE VIEW

HUMAN FREEDOMS IN THE GIVEN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF EACH STATE SEPARATELY, AND OF COURSE DIALECTICALLY ALSO IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE HELSINKI RESOLUTIONS".

3. REST OF FIRST DAY SESSION TAKEN UP WITH OPENING STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS JOURNALISTS. GUNTHER NENNING OF NEUES FORUM (AUSTRIA) PROPOSED "CODE OF CONDUCT" FOR JOURNALISTS. AT FIRST GLANCE AN INNOCENT ATTEMPT TO CODIFY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOURNALISTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, PROPOSAL SEEMED MORE AND MORE SINISTER AS BULGARIAN, CZECH, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS (IOJ), AND OTHER LEFTIST REPRESENTATIVES BEGAN TO SUGGEST THAT CODE MIGHT PRESCRIBE "PROPER CONDUCT OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS."

4. FIRST-DAY SESSION ALSO SAW LOW-KEY PRESENTATION BY SPARTAK BEGLOV OF NOVOSTI (APN) AND A FEW BRICKBATS THROWN AT WEST BY KOSTOV OF BULGARIA, FERENZ OF HUNGARY, KURTZCHER OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND KUBIN OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. VUKOJE BULATOVIC (POLITIKA NEWSPAPER, YUGOSLAVIA) GAVE FIGURE-FILLED PRESENTATION ON YUGOSLAV FULFILLMENT OF BASKET III REQUIREMENTS. DISCUSSED NUMBER OF CULTURAL AGREEMENTS, BOOKSTORES WITH FOREIGN MATERIAL, TRANSLATIONS AND IMPORTS OF FOREIGN BOOKS, VISITS BY FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, FOREIGN STUDENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA, SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN TO FOREIGNERS, AND PROVIDED NOW STANDARD YUGOSLAV DEFINITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: HUMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIGHTS ARE NOT ONLY THE CLASSICAL HUMAN FREEDOMS BUT ALSO THE FREEDOM TO WORK, TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION, AND THE FREEDOM TO CONTROL ONE'S LIFE (SELF-MANAGEMENT). BULATOVIC PROPOSED THAT 1979 OR 1980 BE DECLARED "YEAR OF EUROPEAN CULTURE" TO STIMULATE A GREATER EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL CULTURES AND FOLKLORE. PROPOSAL MET NO RESISTANCE.

5. APR 23 SESSION OPENED WITH MICHAEL GETLER OF WASHINGTON POST SAYING HE WAS "TIRED OF JOURNALISTS SOUNDING LIKE DIPLOMATS". ATTACKING LACK OF FREEDOM FOR JOURNALISTIC ENDEAVOR IN EASTERN COUNTRIES, HE GAVE POINT BY POINT DESCRIPTION OF DIFFICULTIES WESTERN JOURNALISTS FACE. GETLER ALSO NOTED THAT NUMBERS ARE NOT THE ISSUE BUT RATHER FREEDOM OF ACCESS. GETLER DENOUNCED CODE OF CONDUCT AS UNACCEPTABLE CONSTRAINT ON FREEDOM OF A JOURNALIST TO ACT AND REPORT AS HE SEES FIT. GETLER SAID HE NOT ONLY WOULD NOT SUBSCRIBE TO ANY CODE OF CONDUCT, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT SIGN ANY COMMUNIQUE SINCE HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT JOURNALISTS SHOULD ISSUE

COMMUNIQUE. GETLER'S WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE STRONGEST PRESENTATION MADE SUPPORTING WESTERN VIEWPOINTS. WEST EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS GENERALLY DELIVERED MILD OBJECTIONS TO EASTERN RESTRICTIONS PHRASED IN GENERAL TERMS.

6. ROUND-TABLE ENDED LATE EVENING APR 26 WITH HEATED DEBATE OVER CONTENT OF COMMUNIQUE. WESTERN JOURNALISTS LED BY HELLA PICK (GUARDIAN) SUCCEEDED IN SUBSTITUTING AN INNOCUOUS PRESS RELEASE FOR COMMUNIQUE.

7. COMMENT: ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION INTERESTING MAINLY AS POSSIBLE PREVIEW TO FORMAL CSCE CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR. SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES SEEMED INCLINED TO AVOID POLEMIC WITH WESTERN COLLEAGUES, OR PERHAPS CHOSE TO USE THEIR WARSAW PACT ALLIES AS "POINT MEN". YUGOSLAVS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE THE BEST OF BOTH BY DISPLAYING THEIR APPRECIABLE OPENNESS TO FLOW OF INFORMATION IN NUMERICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TERMS, WHILE CRITICIZING THE WEST FOR "EXCESSIVE" ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND ASCRIBING NEFARIOUS MOTIVES TO SUCH WESTERN PREOCCUPATIONS. WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES WERE NOT OVERLY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POSITIONS IN GENERAL, AND ONLY COULD BE COUNTED ON TO ARGUE FOR FREER ACCESS TO INFORMATION SOURCES IN EASTERN COUNTRIES. END COMMENT.

8. ANOTHER CSCE-RELATED ROUND-TABLE, THIS ONE ON "THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND HUMAN FREEDOMS", BROUGHT TOGETHER ACADEMICS AND OFFICIALS FROM THROUGHOUT YUGOSLAVIA IN NOVI SAD ON APR 21 AND 22. SPEAKERS UNIFORMLY CRITICIZED WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS "CAMPAIGN" AND DEFENDED YUGOSLAV RECORD USING FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS (REFTEL). ONE PARTICIPANT CRITICIZED THE UNITED STATES BY NAME FOR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND ASPERSIONS WERE OFTEN CAST ABOUT THE "REAL REASONS" BEHIND WESTERN CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. ALEXANDER BOZOVIC, YUGOSLAV DELEGATE TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, SAID THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN LED BY "SOME COUNTRIES" WAS DESIGNED TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM OTHER PROBLEMS, BUT THAT IT IS LIKELY TO LAST AND EVEN INVOLVE YUGOSLAVIA.

10. COMMENT: THIS ROUND-TABLE IS A CONCRETE RESULT OF THE MOVEMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES HAVE CHOSEN TO MOUNT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IN REACTION. THE ROUND-TABLE WAS THE SUBJECT OF A TV PROGRAM AS WELL AS OF PRESS REPORTS. WHILE THE OFFICIAL LINE DEFENDS YUGOSLAVIA'S RECORD, SUCH PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE CAN ONLY FURTHER FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HOPEFULLY THEREBY BETTER

YUGOSLAVIA'S RECORD IN THIS FIELD. YORK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, INFORMATION MEDIA, TREATY COMPLIANCE, COMMUNISTS, JOURNALISTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA02707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770152-0273
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977046/aaaaaeup.tel
Line Count: 171
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BELGRADE 1924
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2814907
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROUND-TABLES ON CSCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, YO, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d41b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009